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Keep Your Garden Alive: observing our fragile surroundings

[Spazio Nobile Gallery](#)

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Institut Finlandais and gallery Spazio Nobile created an exhibition with 18 Finnish designers and artists, reminding us of the best source of innovation.

Text by [Mechteld Jungerius](#)

The group exhibition [Keep Your Garden Alive](#) opened two days ago in the [Institut Finlandais](#). This cultural institution, located in Paris, functions as an independent multidisciplinary platform between Finland and France. It seeks to explore how cultural frameworks can create an international dialogue in design fields. Director of the [Finnish Cultural Institute for the Benelux](#), Kaati Lanso, curated the presentation together with Lise Coirier, director of [Pro Materia & Spazio Nobile Gallery](#), located in Brussels.

The presentation looks into how one should observe fragile surroundings, and how to protect it in times of global warming. The garden is in this sense a metaphor for our surroundings and the necessity to care for it, to cherish it for future generations. Implying inner and outer life, as well as a real-life illustration of our mineral and organic man-made world.

This is researched with a certain focus on applied arts since it reminds us of how the earth and the natural elements remain as the best source of innovation and creation. Mainly the use of design-led craftsmanship such as ceramics, glass, metal, and wood seem to bring us back to our human roots and sense of our material culture.

The group exhibition features the following Finnish emerging, renowned artists and designers in the exhibition: [Kristina Riska](#), Sami Ruotsalainen, [Teemu Salonen](#), [Perttu Saks](#), [Kustaa Saksi](#), [Caroline Slotte](#), [Heikki Viinikainen](#), [Man Yau](#), [Inka Bell](#), [Johanna Gullichsen](#), [Antrei Hartikainen](#), [Mari](#)

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[Isopahkala](#), [Renata Jakowleff](#), [Harri Koskinen](#), [Veera Kulju](#), [Tero Kuitunen](#), [Laura Laine](#) and [Päivi Rintaniemi](#).

Keep Your Garden Alive is on show at Institut Finlandais from 24 April till 13 July.



Fluid Red Condition by Harri Koskinen



From the series Tracing by Caroline Slotte



From the series July by Inka Bell



Unlimited Form 3 by Kristina Riska



Mökki by Heikki Viinikainen